

A Message from your Local RCMP

Re: Snow Patrol article. Selkirk Journal January 15th, 2010

Your local East St. Paul R.C.M.P. Detachment members will be conducting periodic snowmobile patrols during the winter months. As is often the case, the vast majority of persons riding snowmobiles in our community as responsible, law abiding individuals. Unfortunately it is a small group of disrespectful riders that tarnish the reputation for the rest of the group. It is these individuals that your local R.C.M.P. members are on the lookout for, to both educate on proper rules and etiquette, and when necessary, issue common offence notices under the applicable provincial statute.

In November of 2008 the Rural Municipality of East St Paul passed a By-Law regulating snowmobile use within RM limits. The By-Law can be viewed on the East St Paul website under the information tab:

<http://www.eaststpaul.com/resources/bylaws/2008-26%20Snowmobile.pdf>

The Rural Municipality of East St. Paul have designated certain roads in the community as snowmobile trails. They can be viewed on the East St Paul website under the Information/Maps tab:

<http://www.eaststpaul.com/resources/Maps/2008SnowmobileTrails.pdf>

East St. Paul R.C.M.P. Constable Bobby Dickinson has compiled the follow quick reference guide:

Snowmobiling Rules

According to the law snowmobile operators must:

- Ensure the snowmobile is properly registered, insured, and displays a valid license plate.
- Wear an approved helmet. All snowmobile riders must wear a properly fastened safety helmet.
- Ensure all lighting equipment on your snowmobile is in working order.
- Ask permission to operate a snowmobile on private property.

It is Illegal to:

- Operate a snowmobile within 30 meters of an unfenced playground or area set aside for recreational use. Ensure the safety of children in our community.
- Operate a snowmobile between midnight and 7:00 am within 30 meters of a residence other than your own/or where you are an invited guest. Respect your neighbours.
- Operate a snowmobile on a roadway or along a shoulder where traffic is traveling the opposite direction.

Remember:

- When operating a snowmobile in the ditch, travel the same direction as the traffic flow on the roadway.
- Cross a roadway at a 90-degree angle (straight across and it's the shortest path across the roadway) and only after coming to a complete stop.
- Any person who is operating a snowmobile under the age of 14 must be in clear view and under the direct supervision of a parent or a responsible adult authorized by the child's parent.
- If the RCMP signals you to stop you must safely come to an immediate stop and produce your registration upon request.
- All collisions with snowmobiles that involve injury or property damage over \$1,000.00 must be reported to the RCMP within seven days.
- All drinking and driving laws that apply to motor vehicle drivers also apply to snowmobile operators. Please don't drink and drive.

Thank you, and happy sledding.

Contacting your local RCMP:

EMERGENCY: 911
or: 668-8322

Administrative line
(non-urgent): 667-6519

Address: 3021 Birds Hill Road
East St. Paul, Manitoba

Web site: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mb/index.htm>